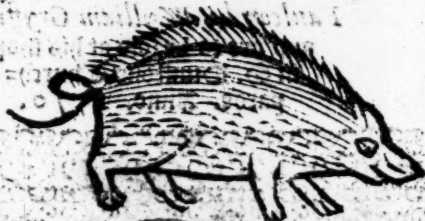


A MARVELOVS
Hystory intituled, Beware the
Cat. Conteynyng diuerse wounder-
full and incredible matters.
Very pleasant and merry to read.



¶ IMPRINTED AT LONDON, IN
Flætestrete at the signe of the
Faulcon by Wylliam Gryffith:
and are to be sold at his shop
in S. Dunstons Church-
parde. Anno. 1570.



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¶ *Loue and Liue.*

¶ *To the Right worshipfull Esquier
maister Iohn Yong, Grace
and health.*

IHaue penned for your master
ships pleasure one of the sto-
ries which maister Streamer
tolde the last Christmas, and
which you so faine wold haue
heard reported by maister Fe-
res him selfe. And although I be vnable to
penne or speake it so pleasantly as he could,
yet haue I so nerely vsed both the order and
wordes of him that spake them, which is not
the least vertue of a reporter that I doubt
not but that he and maister VVillot shal in
the reading thinke they heare maister Strea-
mer speake, and he him selfe in the like acti-
on shal doubt whether he speaketh or rea-
deth. I haue deuided his oration into three
partes, and put the argument before them,
and an instruction after them with such
notes as might be gathered therof: so ma-
king it booke like, and intituled: *Be ware the
Cat.* But because I doubt whether master
Streamer wilbe contented that other men
plow with his oxen, I meane penne such
thinges as he speaketh, which perhaps hee
A.ij. would

The Epistle deascatory.

would rather do him selfe to haue (as he deserueth) the glory of both therefore I besech you to learne his mind herein. And if he agree it passe in such sorte, yet that he peruse it before the Printing, and amend it if in any poynt I haue mistaken him. I pray you likewise to aske master Ferres his iudgement herein, and shewe him that the cure of the great plague of master Sreamers translation out of the Arabicke, which hee sent me from Margets, shalbe Imprinted assone as I may conueniently. And it I shall perceaue by your tryall, that master Streamer allowe my endeouours in this kinde, I will hereafter as Plato did by Socrates penne such things out of the rest of our Christmas communications, as shalbe to his great glorie, and no lesse pleasure to all them that desire such kinds of knowledge. In the meane while I besech you accept my good will, and learne to beware the Cat. So shal you not only performe that I seke but also please the Almightye who alwayes preserue
you: Amen.

Tours to his power. C. B.

The Argument.

It chanced that at Christmas last I was at the Court with master Ferres then master of the kyngs maiesties pastimes about the setting forth of certaine enterludes, which for the kynges recreation we had deuised and were in learning. In which time among many other exercises among our selues we vsed nightly at our lodging to talke of sundry thinges for the furtheraunce of such offices wherin ech man as than serued. For which purpose it pleased master Ferres to make me his bedfellowe, and vpon a pallet cast vpon the rushes in his owne chamber to lodge master willot and. M. Streamer, the one his Astronimer the other his diuine. And among many other thinges to long to reherse, it hapned on a night which I thinke was the .xxviii. of December after that M. Ferres was come from the court and in bead, there fell a controuersie betwene M. Streamer who with M. willot had already slept his first slepe, and I that was newly come to bead the effect wherof was whether birdes and beastes had reason, the occasion wherof was this. I had heard that the kings players were learning a play of Elops Crows, wherein the most parte of the actors were birdes, the deuise wherof I discommended, saying it was not communicall to make eyther spechless thinges to speake, or brutish thinges to common reasonably. And although in a tale it were suffreable to imagine and tel of somthing by them spoken or reasonably done, which kind of Elop laudably vsed, yet it was vncomly sayd I and without example of any author to bring them in liuely personages to speake, do, reason, and alaege authorities out of authours. M. Streamer my Le. diuine, being more diuine in this poynt than I was ware of, held the contrary parte, affirming that beastes and foules had reason, and that as much as men, yea and in some poyntes more. master Ferres hun selfe and his Astronimer

The Argument.

Wakened with our talke harkened to vs, but would take parte on neither side. And whan M. Streamer had for profe of his assercion declared many thinges of Oliphants that walked vpon cordes, Wedgehogges that knewe alwayes what weather would come, Foxes and Dogges that aft er they had bene all night abrode killing Geese and Sheepe would come home in the morning & put their neckes into their collers, Parates that bewayled their keepers death, Swallowes that with Selandine open their young ones eyes, and an hundred thinges more which I denied to come of reason, and to be but naturall kindly actions, alleging for my profe authority of most graue and learned Philosophers, well quod master Streamer I knowe what I know, and I speake not onely what by hearlay of some Philosophers I knowe, but what I my selfe haue proued. Why (quod I then) haue you profe of beastes and fowles reason? yea (quod he) I haue heard them & vnderstand them both speake and reason as wel as I here & vnderstand you: at this M. Ferres laughed. But I remembryng what I had read in Albertes woorkes, thought there might be somwhat more than I knew, wherfore I asked him what beastes or fowles he had heard, and where and whan? At this he pawsed a while, & at last sayd: If I thought you could be content to heare me, and without any interruption till I haue done to marke what I say, I would tel you such a story of one piece of my owne experimenting, as should both make you wonder, & put you out of doubt concerning this matter. But this I promise you afores I do tell it, that as sone as any man curiously interrupteth me, I will leaue of and not speake one word more. whan we had promised quietly to heare, he turning him selfe so in his head as we might best heare him, sayd:

FINIS.



The first parte of master

Streamers oracion.



Being lodged as I thanks
him I haue bene often, at a
friends house of mine, which
more rowmish within than
garish without, standeth at
Saiua Martins lane end,
and hangeth partly vpon the towne wall
that is called Aldersgate, eyther of one Al-
dricke, or els of Elders, that is to say an-
cient men of the Citie which among them
builded it, as Bishops did Bishopsgate: or
els of Eldern trees, which perchaunce as
they do in the gardens now ther about, so
while the comon there was vacaunt grue
aboundantly in the same place where the
gate was after builded, and called therof
Elderngate: as Moregate toke the name of
the feild without it, which hath bene a ve-
ry More. Or els because it is the most
auncient gate of the Citie, was therof in
respect of the other, as Newgate, called the
Newergate. Or els as Ludgate taketh the
name of Lud, who builded it, so mosse
parte of Haroldes (I know) will sonest as-
sent that Aluredus builded this. But they
are deceived. For he and his wife Algay

A. b.

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why more
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The first parte

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bullded Algate which therof taketh the name, as Criplegate doth of a Criples who begged so much money in his life as put to the siluer Wethercocke which he stole from Poules Steple, after his death bullded it.

But wherof so euer this gate Aldergate toke the name, which longeth chiefly to Historiyes to know, at my frendes house which as I sayd standeth so nere it that it is ouer it, I lay often times, and that for sundry causes. Sometime for lacke of other lodging, & sometime as while my Greke Alphabets were in printing to se that they might be truly corrected. And sure it is a shame for all young men that they be no more studious in the souniges, but the world is now come to that passe, that if he can prate a litle Latine, & handle a Racket and a payre of fire square bowles, he shall soner obteine any liuing than the best learned in a whole Citie: which is cause that learning is dispised, and bagagical things so much aduanced.

While I lay at the forsayd house for the causes aforesayd, I was lodged in a Chamber harde by the Printing house, which had a sayre Bay window opening into



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